

Congressional Leaders Bar Special Inquiry Into C.I.A.

Curbs Called Sufficient

By JOHN HERBERS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24—Congressional leaders said today that there would be no special investigation by the legislative branch of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Republican leaders, who have been critical of the Johnson Administration on almost every other issue, said at a news conference that they saw no reason to look into the intelligence agency's involvement with private organizations and institutions.

Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois, the Senate minority leader, said disclosures that the agency had been giving money to educational and labor groups and foundations amounted to "little more than a Roman holiday."

Representative Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, the House Republican leader, said "there is enough Congressional surveillance of C.I.A." Senator Mike Mansfield of Montana, Senate Democratic leader, agreed and said he believed an investigation of the subsidies should be left to an intra-Administration committee appointed by President Johnson and directed by Under Secretary of State Nicholas deB. Katzenbach.

The House Labor and Education Committee, which was reported last week to be initiating an investigation of intelligence agency subsidies to the National Student Association, plans no hearings or inquiry that would increase Congressional oversight of the agency.

A spokesman for the committee said that the chairman, Carl D. Perkins, Democrat of Kentucky, had asked the agency and the student association for written reports on the matter but was not expected to pursue the subject further.

Members of Congress who have been asking for new Congressional inquiries do not have the authority to bring them about. A proposal by Senator Eugene J. McCarthy, Democrat of Minnesota, to appoint a select Senate committee to investigate the agency's involvement with domestic institutions is considered dead by Senate leaders.

The general attitude in Congress was that the issue contained no political profit, even if security matters were not involved.

Hartke Renews Charge

But in a speech late this afternoon, Senator Vance Hartke, Democrat of Indiana, renewed the charge that the intelligence agency had employed student members or officers of the National Student Association as undercover agents.

Mr. Hartke said that during the revolution in the Dominican Republic in 1965, the agency sent American student leaders to the Caribbean island "ostensibly to talk with student leaders in that country about university modernization."

He said the United States students also gathered information on local students and dispatched it to the agency and that reports were used by the agency in preparing intelligence evaluations of the revolution.

However, Philip Sherburne, president of the association in 1965 and a key figure in the association's break with the agency, said tonight that he was "not aware that anyone from N. S. A. was there during the fighting."

Mr. Sherburne said that "as far as I know, that was not done by any member of my staff during my administration. And I was pretty well aware of the relations between the N. S. A. and C. I. A. people then."

The Republican position was brought out at a news conference in the Capitol by Representative Ford and Senator Dirksen. They opened the conference by reading prepared statements urging public hearings on proposals to share Federal revenues with state and local governments. But the questioning soon turned to the intelligence agency and other matters.

'Of Dubious Value'

"My concern," Senator Dirksen said, "is that intelligence is not intelligence and is of dubious value unless it is absolutely secret."

The recent disclosures, he said, do "the cause of United States intelligence no good."

"For myself, I prefer to leave it alone," he continued. "I can't imagine the British Parliament investigating" the British intelligence system, nor, he said, could he imagine a public inquiry into Russian or French intelligence.

Mr. Ford said he had been for a number of years a member of an appropriations subcommittee entrusted with intelligence agency oversight. He said he and other members of

the subcommittee had known "enough of the background and information that has been disclosed."

"I wonder how badly we would have done if we had not had this," he said, alluding to subsidies to groups that had been used to combat Communist propaganda in the cold war.

Senator Mansfield said later in response to questions that he agreed there was sufficient Congressional oversight of the agency. Earlier this week, the Senate watchdog committee, recently enlarged to 12 members, questioned Richard Helms, Director of Central Intelligence, about the subsidies.

Senator Richard B. Russell, Democrat of Georgia, who is head of the committee, reported that Mr. Helms had said that in view of the disclosures, agency assistance to a number of organizations would be suspended.

Senator Mansfield, a member of the committee, was asked if the committee would make further inquiries into the agency's operations.

"For the time being, I think it is enough," Senator Mansfield said. "I am sure the Katzenbach committee will go into this thoroughly and impartially."

Serving with Mr. Katzenbach are Mr. Helms and the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, John W. Gardner.

FOIAb3b

FOIAb3b